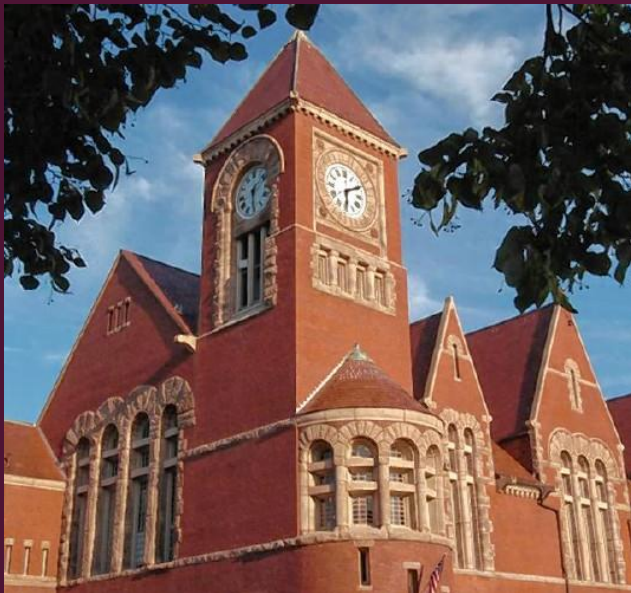


TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM ON PROPOSED FY21 TOWN BUDGET



THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2019

LYNN GRIESEMER, TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT
PAUL BOCKELMAN, TOWN MANAGER

AGENDA

- Priorities
- Context: History and Forecasts
- Capital Projects
- Budget Process and Timeline
- Public Comment



WELCOME/PURPOSE

Section 1.7: Definitions

Public Forum: The phrase "public forum" shall mean a meeting during which more than one-half of the meeting time on the agenda is devoted to public comment.

Section 5.3: Public Forum

Not later than March 15, but before the Town Manager submits a proposed budget to the Town Council, the President of the Town Council with the cooperation of the Town Manager shall call at least 1 public forum on the topic of the proposed budget. This forum is intended for the Town Council and the Town Manager to present priorities, context based on prior years' budgets, revenue and expenditure forecasts, and other relevant information, and to solicit feedback from the public.

HOW ARE PRIORITIES COLLECTED?

- Suggestions offered by the public
- Town Manager performance goals
- Town Council goals
- Collected priorities from Town boards and committees
- New initiatives developed by professional staff
- Goals from prior years that are still outstanding

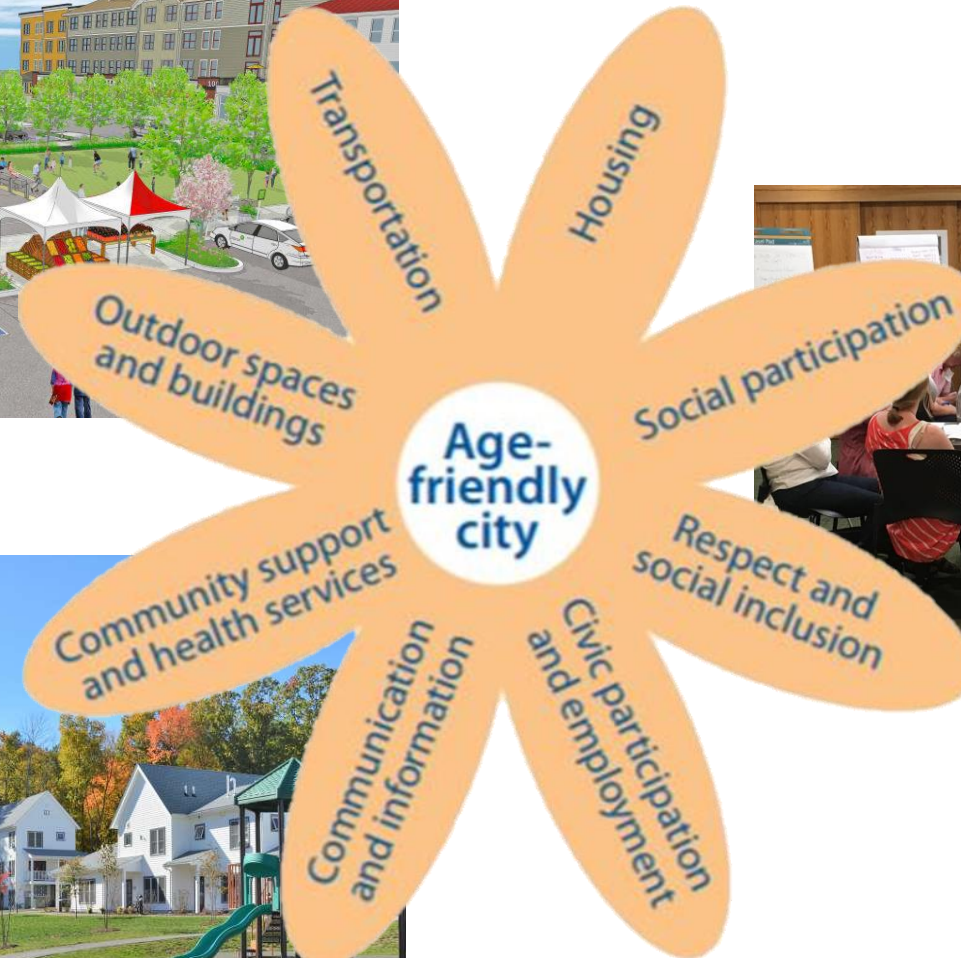
PRIORITIES

- Financial Stability
 - Multi-year outlook (operating and capital)
 - Meeting staffing needs
 - Impact on taxpayers
 - Alternative sources of revenue
- Sustainability and resiliency
 - Energy efficient buildings
 - Commitment to solar
 - Climate action and resilience goals



PRIORITIES

- Planning for the future
 - Downtown
 - Village Centers
 - Affordable housing
- Building community
 - Age-friendly/aging in place
 - Services and opportunities
 - Parks and playgrounds
 - Inclusion and Social Engagement



PRIORITIES

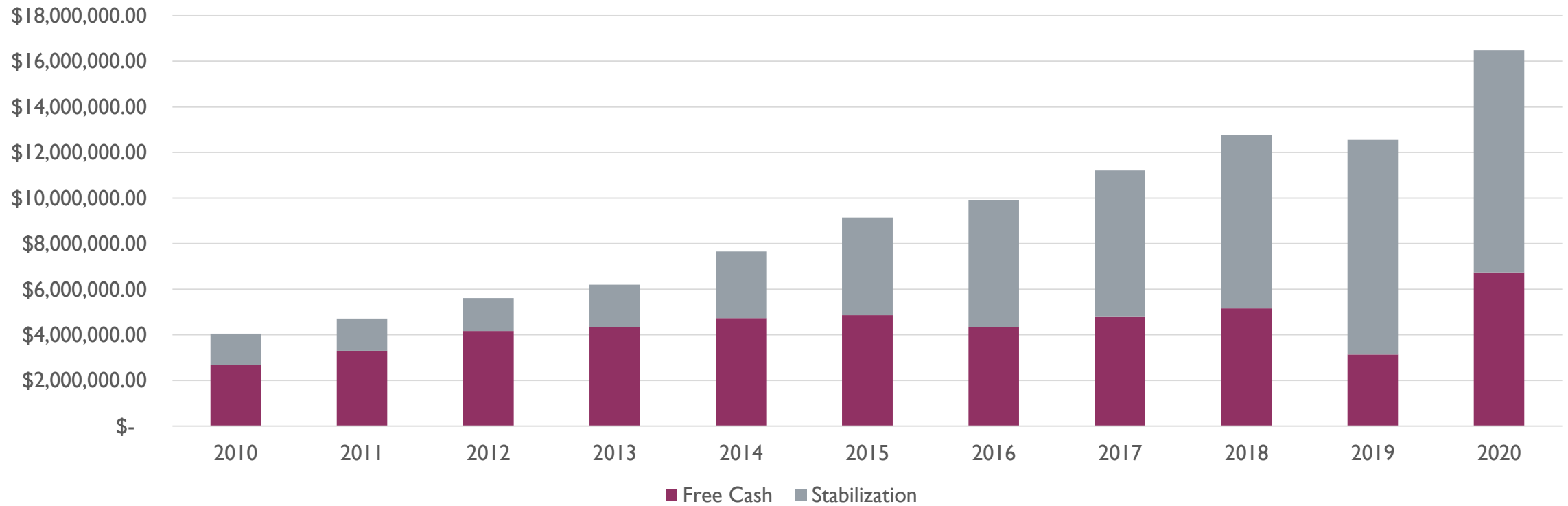
- Built Infrastructure
 - Elementary school(s)
 - DPW headquarters
 - Fire headquarters
 - Jones Library
- Roads, sidewalks, and crosswalks
 - Walkable
 - Bike-able
 - Complete streets



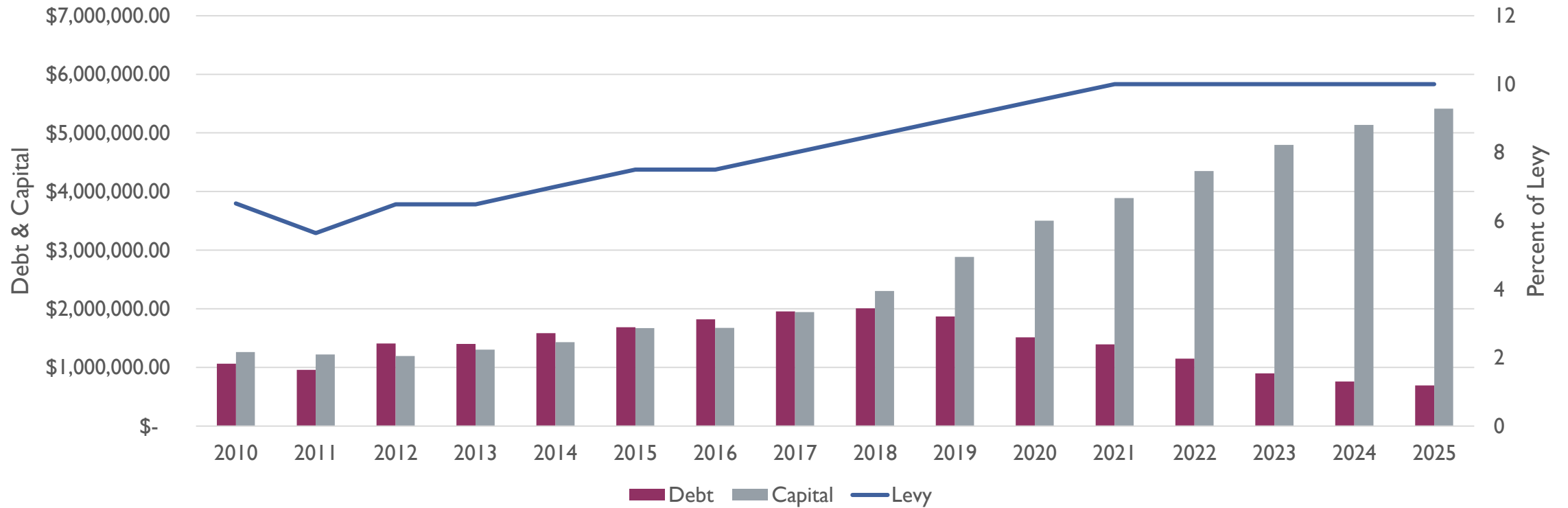
BIG CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Built up reserves
- Increased commitment to capital
- Debt decreasing
- Bond rating

FREE CASH AND STABILIZATION FUND



CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AND DEBT



2010-2020 Actual, 2021-2025 Projected

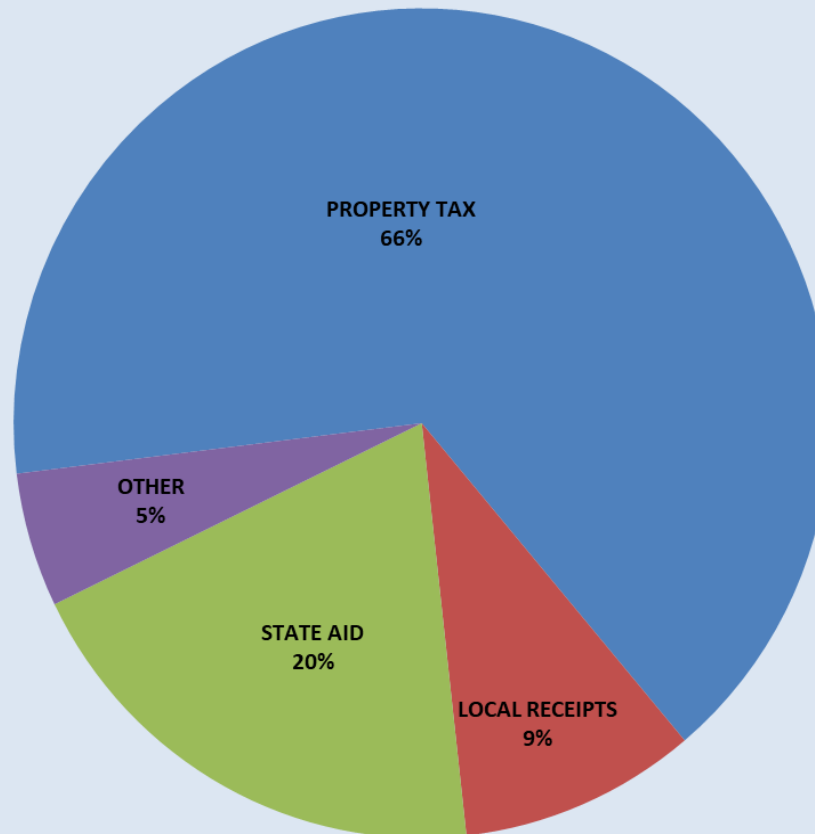


REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

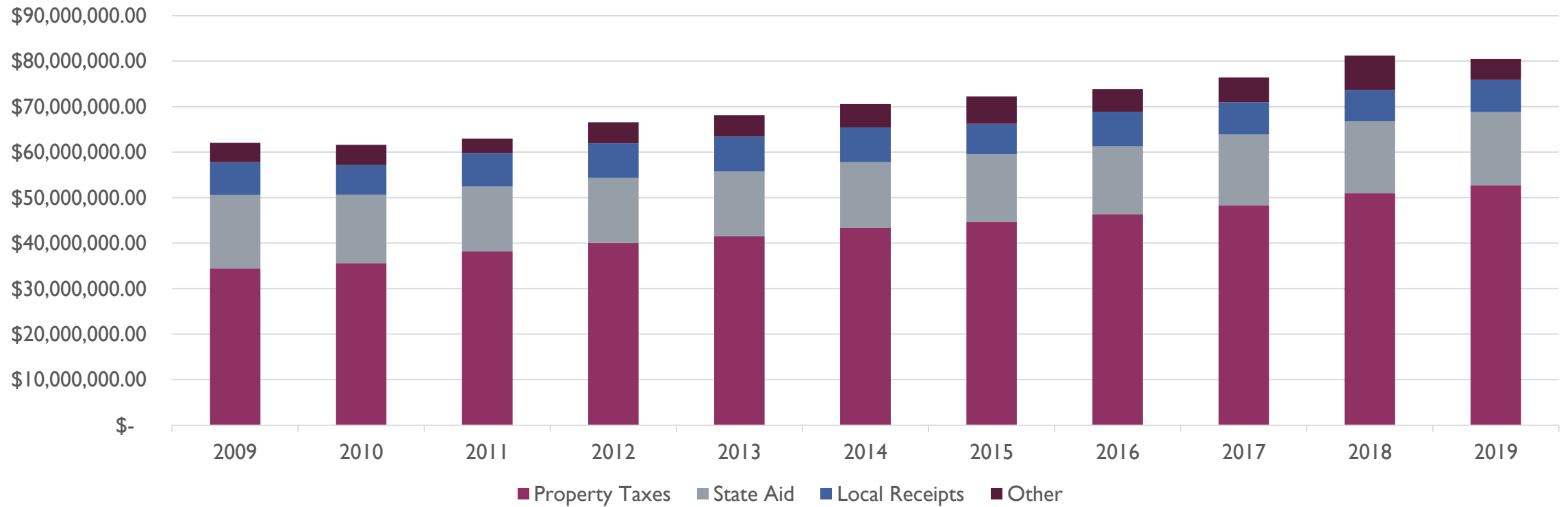


FY20 REVENUE

General Fund Revenues FY20 \$83,446,786

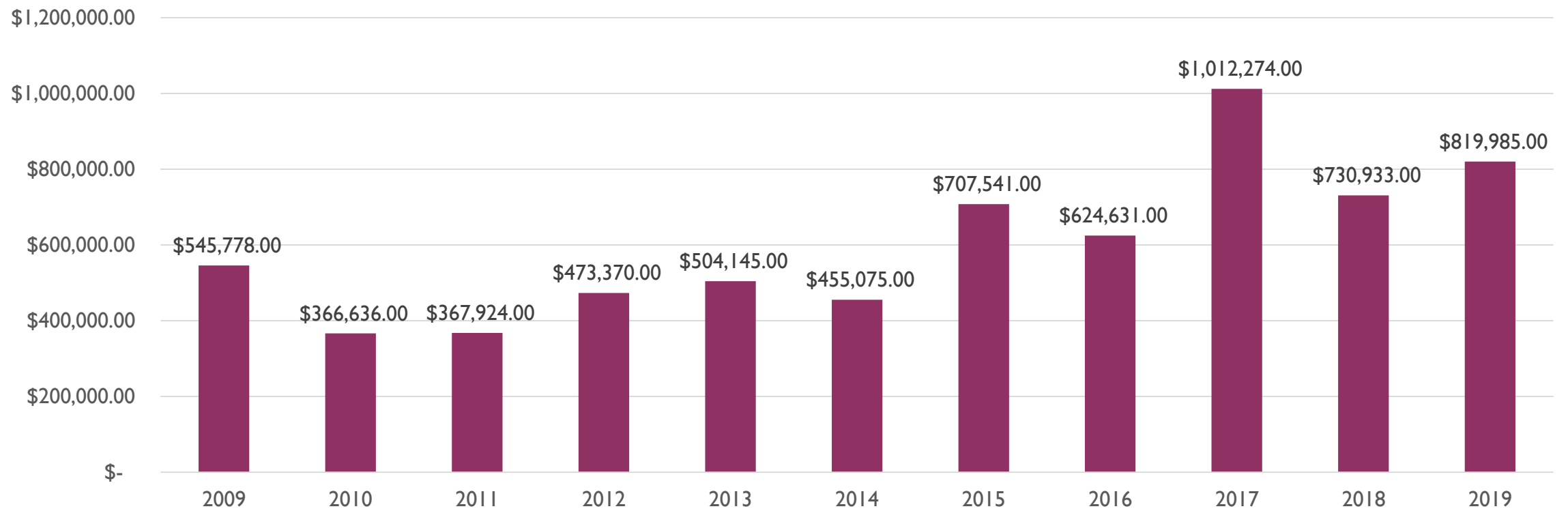


GENERAL FUND REVENUE

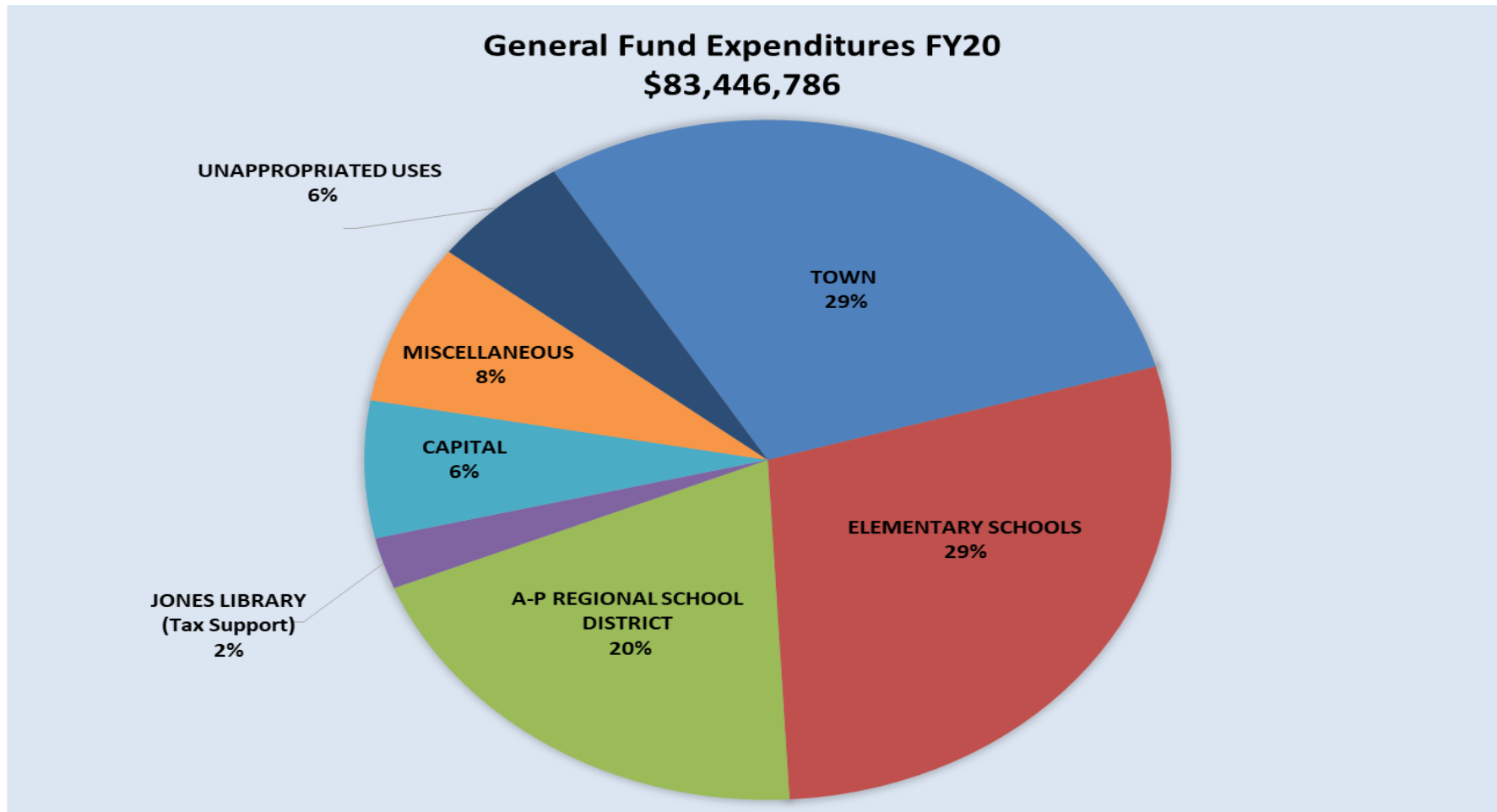


2009-2018 Actual, 2019 Projected

REVENUE: NEW GROWTH



FY20 EXPENDITURES



FY20: WHERE WE ARE

- Maintained level services
 - Town: +2.8% (original budget within the 2.5%)
 - Elementary Schools: +2.5% (+2.6% net of assessments for charter and choice students)
 - Regional Schools: +2.5% (the assessment method agreed upon by the four towns in the region)
 - Library: +2.5% Town tax support
 - Capital: 9.5% of tax levy (up from 9.0%), our goal is to get to 10% of the tax levy
- Health Insurance
 - Returned funds to Free Cash
 - Suspended surcharge on employees and employers

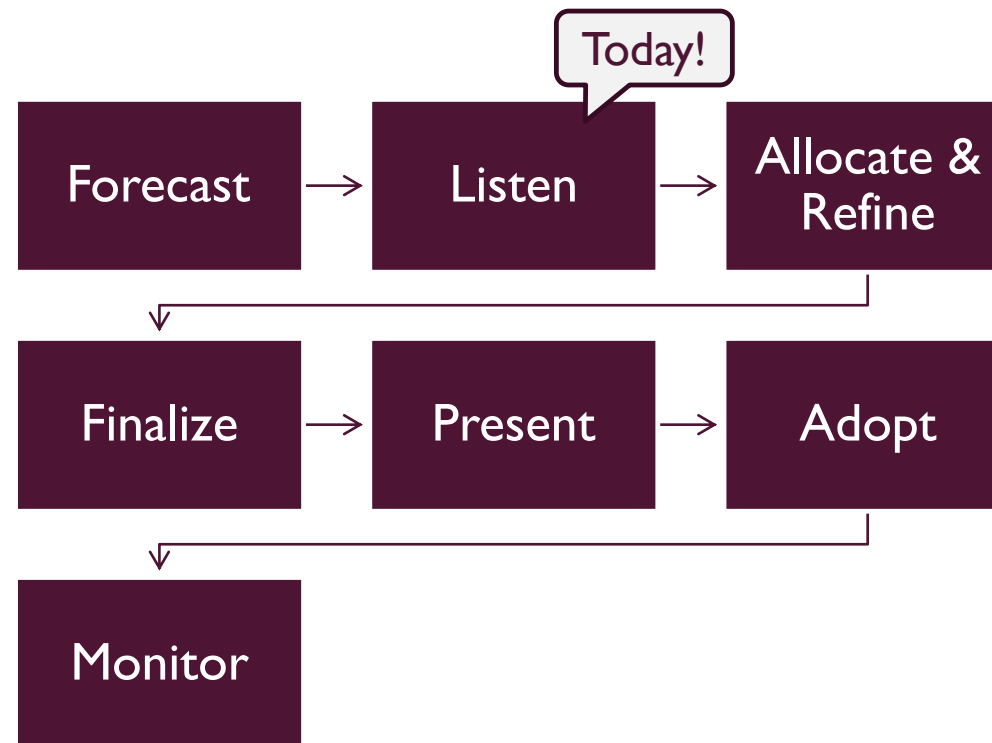
FY21: WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

- Net State Aid
- Health Insurance Increases (estimating 5-6%)
- Retirement Assessment (estimating 7%)
- Collective Bargaining Agreements that are not settled
- Regional School Assessment Formula

FY21:WORKING ASSUMPTIONS

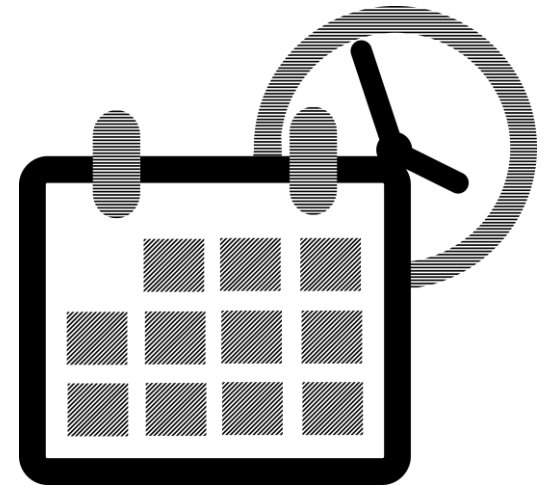
- Property tax levy continues to grow at 2.5% limit
- New growth of \$600,000
- No increase in state aid, unrestricted general government aid
- Minimal growth in local receipts
- Decreased ambulance receipts from FY18
- No use of Town reserves
- No override for operating expenses

WHERE WE ARE – BUDGET TIMELINE



FY21 TOWN BUDGET TIMELINE

- November 7th – Public Forum on the Budget
- April 1st – School Committee, Regional School Committee, and Library Trustees budgets due to the Town Manager
- May 1st – Town Manager's budget due to Town Council
- May – Town Council Finance Committee reviews budget
- May – Finance Committee holds public hearing on budget
- May – Finance Committee votes on budget recommendation
- June 30th – Town Council deadline to vote on budget



PUBLIC COMMENT

www.AmherstMA.gov/budget

